

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3250

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a new category of long-distance trails to be known as National Discovery Trails, to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national trail in that category, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. FORD, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. DELLUMS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. SCHAEFER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. LEACH, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. VENTO, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SKAGGS, Ms. MCCARTHY, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. WELLER, Mrs. VUCANOVICH, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. BEILENSEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. FROST, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. ORTON, Mr. NEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FAWELL, and Mr. MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

## A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a new category of long-distance trails to be known as National Discovery Trails, to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national trail in that category, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Discovery  
3 Trails Act of 1996”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT AMENDMENTS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS ESTABLISHED.—  
6 Section 3(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C.  
7 1242(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
8 following:

9 “(5) National discovery trails, established under  
10 section 5, which will be extended, continuous inter-  
11 state trails so located as to provide for outstanding  
12 outdoor recreation and travel and to connect rep-  
13 resentative examples of America’s trails and commu-  
14 nities. National discovery trails should provide for  
15 the conservation and enjoyment of significant natu-  
16 ral, cultural, and historic resources associated with  
17 each trail and should be so located as to represent  
18 metropolitan, urban, rural, and back-country regions  
19 of the Nation. The appropriate Secretary shall ad-  
20 minister national discovery trails in cooperation with  
21 a nonprofit organization.”.

22 (b) DESIGNATION OF THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY  
23 TRAIL AS A NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL.—Section 5(a)  
24 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating the paragraph relating to  
2           the California National Historic Trail as paragraph  
3           18;

4           (2) by redesignating the paragraph relating to  
5           the Pony Express National Historic Trail as para-  
6           graph 19; and

7           (3) by adding at the end the following:

8           “(20) The American Discovery Trail, a trail of ap-  
9           proximately 6,000 miles extending from Cape Henlopen  
10          State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore  
11          in California, traveling through Delaware, Maryland,  
12          Washington, DC, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky,  
13          where near Cincinnati it splits into 2 routes. The Northern  
14          Midwest route winds through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa,  
15          Nebraska, and Colorado, and the Southern Midwest route  
16          explores Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado.  
17          After rejoining in Denver, Colorado, the route continues  
18          through Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The trail  
19          is generally described in volume 2 of the National Park  
20          Service feasibility study dated June 1995 which shall be  
21          on file and available for public inspection in the office of  
22          the Director of the National Park Service, Department of  
23          the Interior, Washington, DC. The American Discovery  
24          Trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior  
25          in cooperation with a nonprofit organization and other af-

1 fected land managing agencies. No lands or interests out-  
 2 side the exterior boundaries of federally administered  
 3 areas may be acquired by the United States solely for the  
 4 American Discovery Trail. This trail is exempted from sec-  
 5 tions 5(d), 7(e), 7(f), and 7(g).”.

6 (c) COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
 7 PLAN.—Section 5(e) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(e)) is  
 8 amended by striking the first sentence through “as part  
 9 of the system,” and inserting “Within two complete fiscal  
 10 years of the date of enactment of legislation designating  
 11 a national scenic trail, except for the Continental Divide  
 12 National Scenic Trail and the North Country National  
 13 Scenic Trail, or a national discovery trail, except for the  
 14 American Discovery Trail, as part of the system,”.

15 (d) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR AMERICAN DISCOV-  
 16 ERY TRAIL.—Section 5 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244) is  
 17 amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(g) The Secretary of the Interior shall enter into ar-  
 19 rangements with a nonprofit organization to submit (with-  
 20 in 3 complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment  
 21 of this subsection) a comprehensive plan for the protec-  
 22 tion, management, development, and use of the American  
 23 Discovery Trail, to the Committee on Resources of the  
 24 United States House of Representatives and the Commit-  
 25 tee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States

1 Senate. The Secretary shall ensure that the comprehensive  
2 plan does not conflict with any existing agency direction  
3 and that the nonprofit organization consults with affected  
4 Federal land-managing agencies, the Governors of the af-  
5 fected States, county and local political jurisdictions, and  
6 local organizations maintaining components of the trail.  
7 Mandatory components of the comprehensive plan in-  
8 clude—

9           “(1) specific objectives and practices to be ob-  
10       served in the administration and management of the  
11       trail, including the identification of all significant  
12       natural, historical, and cultural resources to be pre-  
13       served, model agreements necessary for joint trail  
14       administration among and between interested par-  
15       ties, and an identified carrying capacity of the trail  
16       and a plan for its implementation;

17           “(2) a trail protection plan to preserve the val-  
18       ues for which the trail is being established and rec-  
19       ognized by the Federal Government;

20           “(3) general and site-specific development  
21       plans, including anticipated costs; and

22           “(4) the process to be followed by the nonprofit  
23       organization in partnership with the Secretary of the  
24       Interior to mark the trail under section 7(c) of this  
25       Act.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 The National Trails System Act is amended—

3 (1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 1241(b)), by  
4 striking “scenic and historic” and inserting “scenic,  
5 historic, and discovery”;

6 (2) in the section heading to section 5 (16  
7 U.S.C. 1244), by striking “AND NATIONAL HIS-  
8 TORIC” and inserting “, NATIONAL HISTORIC, AND  
9 NATIONAL DISCOVERY”;

10 (3) in section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 1244(a))—

11 (A) by striking “and national historic” and  
12 inserting “, national historic, and national dis-  
13 covery”; and

14 (B) by striking “and National Historic”  
15 and inserting “, National Historic, and Na-  
16 tional Discovery” ;

17 (4) in section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)), by  
18 striking “or national historic” and inserting “, na-  
19 tional historic, or national discovery”;

20 (5) in section 5(b)(3) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)(3)),  
21 by striking “or national historic” and inserting “,  
22 national historic, or national discovery”;

23 (6) in section 5(d) (16 U.S.C. 1244(d)), by  
24 striking “or national historic” and inserting “, na-  
25 tional historic, or national discovery”;

1           (7) in section 7(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(a)(2)),  
2       by striking “and national historic” and inserting “,  
3       national historic, and national discovery”;

4           (8) in section 7(b) (16 U.S.C. 1246(b)), by  
5       striking “or national historic” each place such term  
6       appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-  
7       tional discovery”;

8           (9) in section 7(c) (16 U.S.C. 1246(c))—

9               (A) by striking “or national historic” each  
10       place such term appears and inserting “, na-  
11       tional historic, or national discovery”; and

12               (B) by striking “and national historic” and  
13       inserting “, national historic, and national dis-  
14       covery”;

15           (10) in section 7(d) (16 U.S.C. 1246(d)), by  
16       striking “or national historic” and inserting “, na-  
17       tional historic, or national discovery”;

18           (11) in section 7(e) (16 U.S.C. 1246(e)), by  
19       striking “or national historic” each place such term  
20       appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-  
21       tional discovery”;

22           (12) in section 7(f)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(f)(2)),  
23       by striking “or Historic” and inserting “, Historic,  
24       or Discovery”;

1           (13) in section 7(h)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1246(h)(1)),  
2       by striking “or national historic” and inserting “,  
3       national historic, or national discovery”; and  
4           (14) in section 7(i) (16 U.S.C. 1246(i)), by  
5       striking “or national historic” and inserting “, na-  
6       tional historic, or national discovery”.

○